Scheduled Tribe Category exists as on 31.12.1992 for want of suitably qualified Class I, II and III officers and also on account of a Court stay order against the recruitment of Class-II officers. These companies are making efforts to get the stay vacated and initiate an exclusive recruitment drive for clearing the backog expeditiously.

Jobs in GIC

945. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme was initiated by the General Insurance Corporation and its subsidiaries to absorb candidates from schools who have completed 10 plus 2 in the year 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) whether they are going to be made permanent;

(c) whether under the scheme, reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes were kept; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) A two year job linked Vocational Course in General Insurance was introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) in the year 1988 on a pilot basis, in a few schools, in selected cities. This scheme covers the candidates qualified in the years 1990-91 to 1992-93 also.

(b) The GIC have reported that they are going to be made permanent.

(c) Schools have been requested to keep 9 seats in a class of 40 reserved for scheduled caste/scheduled tribe candidates.

(d) Does not arise.

आयकर लगाने हेतु आयकर की सीमा बढ़ाया जाना

946. **डा. नौनिहाल सिंह** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार आयकर लगाने हेतु आयकर की सीमा को बढ़ाने का विचार कर रही है :

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस दिशा में कब तक अन्तिम निर्णय ले लेगी ; और

(ग) मूल्यों में लगातार वृद्धि को ध्यान से रखते हुए सरकारी कर्मचारियों को राहत पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) से (ग) वित्त अधिनियम 1993 द्वारा आयकर अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत छूट की सीमा को 28000रु से से बढ़ाकर 30,000 रु. तक कर दिया गया है और वेतन-आय के संबंध में मानक कटौती की अधिकतम सीमा को 12,000 रु. से बढाकर 15,000 रु. तक कर दिया गया है । आयकर छूट की सीमा की राशि से संबंधित मुद्दे पर बजट -पूर्व कार्यवाही के दौरान विचार किया जाता है उसके निर्णय पर वार्षिक वित विधेयक में विचार किया जाता है ।

Realisation of tax from East-West Airlines

947. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the East-West Airlines operating in the country are in huge arrears of Travel Tax running into crores of rupees;

(b) if so, what is the amount of arrears outstanding against these airlines; and

(c) what are the difficulties in realising the arrears and manner in which Government propose to collect the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sum of over Rs. 14 crores is estimated to be outstanding against M/s. East-West Airines, as Inland Air Travel Tax for the period March, 1992 to February, 1993.

(c) Since M/s. East-West Airlines did not pay the Inland Air Travel Tax leviable under the provisions of the Finance Act, 1989, a show cause notice was issued to the airlines demanding the arreas of the taxes due to be paid by them. While the adjudication proceedings were in progress, the airlines filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court inter-alia seeking stay of the proceedings. The Hon'ble High Court has directed that on the petitioner depositing a sum of Rs. 4 crores within four weeks from the date of the order (26.7.93) there shall be stay of further proceedings in pursuance of the impugned notices.

Payment of DA to Central Government employees

948. SHRIMATI KAILISHPATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one more instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for payment to the Central Government employees since 1st July, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the detils thereof;

(c) by when the instalment is likely to be released and paid;

(d) whether Government propose to merge a part of the dearness allowance with the basic pay of the employees;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing formula, based on the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, one additional instalment of dearness allowance due to the Central Government employees from 1st July, 1993, will become payable with the salary for the month of September, 1993.

(d) to (f) On the basis of the demand raised by the Staff side of the National Council (JCM), the question of treating a portion of dearness allowance as dearness pay for certain purposes is under consideration.

सीमा शुल्क विभाग द्वारा निषिद्ध वस्तुओं का जब्त किया जाना

949. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
चौधरी हरि सिंह :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सीमा शुल्क विभाग द्वारा गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान वर्षवार और राज्यवार जितना सोना, कितने रिवाल्वर और अन्य निषिद्ध वस्तुएं जब्त की गई ;

(ख) क्या उक्त अवधि के दौरान इन वस्तुओं को जब्त करने वाले किसी सीमा शुल्क अधिकारी को पुरस्कार-स्वरूप पदोन्नति दी गई है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) इस संबंध में सरकार की नीति क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Merger of loss making Banks

950. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided for the merger of